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Spalding
Rural District Council

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year 1954

SPALDING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman : Mr. A. C. Casswell, J. P.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. A. R. Ward, J.P.

Members of the Council :

Mr. T. Atkinson	Mr. W. Dring
Mr. H. K. Braybrooks	Mr. S. A. Goodyear
Mr. F. E. Casson	Mr. G. W. Machin
Mr. J. H. Casswell, J.P.	Mr. J. W. Marriott
Mr. A. E. Chappell, J. P.	Mr. C. A. Merrill
Mr. H. W. Chappell	Mr. J. F. Pannell
Mr. T. H. Chatterton	Mr. J. Pearson
Mr. T. Clark	Mr. E. J. Slator, J.P.
Mr. W. E. Clark	Mr. B. Thorpe
Mr. J. E. Clifton, J.P.	Mr. T. A. Warren
Mr. W. Coward	Mr. H. G. Witherington
Mr. A. Dawes	Mr. A. E. Woodhead
Mr. A. G. Stocker	

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Chairman : Mr. H. G. Witherington

Vice-Chairman : Mr. E. J. Slator, J.P.

Mr. A. E. Chappell, J.P.	Mr. W. Dring
Mr. H. W. Chappell	Mr. S. A. Goodyear
Mr. T. H. Chatterton	Mr. C. A. Merrill
Mr. W. E. Clark	Mr. J. W. Marriott
Mr. A. Dawes	Mr. T. A. Warren
Mr. A. G. Stocker	Mr. A. E. Woodhead

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members.

Staff of the Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—
R. Miller, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR—
F. Luker, M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS—
H. Todd, M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food.
G. Rothwell, M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food, until May 1954.
W. E. Farley, M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food, from November 1954.

Spalding Rural District Council,
Council Offices,
Priory Road,
Spalding.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Spalding Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my report for 1954 in accordance with the regulations, and guidance, of the Ministry of Health.

The sewerage scheme for Crowland is now functioning, and despite all the difficulties and obstacles with which the Council has had, and is still having to cope, it is to be hoped that the schemes for the other villages will not be unduly delayed. The provision of mains water carriage sewerage systems is one of the most important contributions which this Council can make to the maintenance of the health of the District.

The achievements of the Council in the provision of housing merits mention. During the year under review 154 houses and 50 bungalows were completed, and on the 31st December, 1954, a further 66 houses and 6 bungalows were under construction.

The provision of a cascade and spray fed reservoir at West Pinchbeck is greatly reducing, and possibly eliminating, the anaerobic sulphate reducing bacteria which had rendered the water from this bore unpleasant and objectionable for domestic use.

The joint Disinfection Centre, which is to be shared by Spalding Urban District Council, East Elloe Rural District Council, and this Council, is now built, and following the installation of the Sparkhall Disinfector, will be ready for use early in 1955.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

RAYMOND MILLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is 87,758 acres.

The resident population (1951 census) is 18,723.

The average population given by the Registrar General for the calculation of death rates is 18,840.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate books is distributed as follows :

Cowbit	...	...	...	...	...	196
Crowland	...	...	...	...	...	940
Deeping St. Nicholas	...	...	...	...	...	537
Donington	...	...	...	...	...	703
Gosberton	...	...	...	...	...	730
Moulton	...	...	...	...	...	859
Pinchbeck	...	...	...	...	...	1185
Quadring	...	...	...	...	...	339
Surfleet	...	...	...	...	...	343
Weston	...	...	...	...	...	455
						<hr/> 6287 <hr/>

The rateable value of the district is £50,991 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £195.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births.

		M		F		Total
Live Births (Legitimate)	...	164	...	150	...	314
„ „ (Illegitimate)	...	5	...	2	...	7
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		169		152		321
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population — 16·69.

This figure is the corrected figure allowing for the age and sex composition of the population to secure comparability between local birth rates, the comparability factor for this district being ·98.

		M		F		Total
Still Births (Legitimate)	...	5	...	3	...	8
„ „ (Illegitimate)	...	3	...	—	...	3
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		8		3		11
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Still Birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births — 34·26.

Deaths.

		M		F		Total
Deaths from all causes	...	89	...	63	...	152

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population — 8·06.

This figure has been adjusted for transfers in and out of the district and, using the comparability factor of 1·01 supplied by the Registrar General, has been corrected to allow for the age and sex composition of the population in order to secure comparability between local death rates.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—25 (males 15 ; females 10)

Deaths from Measles (all ages) nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) nil.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion — nil.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

		M		F		Total
Legitimate	...	11	...	2	...	13
Illegitimate	...	—	...	—	...	—

Death rates of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	40.49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...			...	41.40
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...				...	nil.

NEONATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.

		M		F		Total
Legitimate	...	4	...	1	...	5
Illegitimate	...	—	...	—	...	—

Death rates of infants under 4 weeks of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	15.58
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					...	15.92
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					...	nil.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

		Spalding Rural District		England and Wales
Live Birth Rate	...	16.70	...	15.2
Death Rate	...	8.15	...	11.3
Death Rate of In- fants under 1 year		40.50	...	25.5

The Vital Statistics reveal no cause for undue alarm regarding health in this District. Both the Birth Rate and the Death Rate compare favourably with those of England and Wales.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, which dropped in 1953, has once again assumed a relatively high figure in comparison with the figures for the Country as a whole.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease :

Excluding cases of Tuberculosis, 70 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Disease				Cases Notified		
				Total	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	43	25	18
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	14	6	8
Measles ...	...	...	...	5	2	3
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	5	3	2
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Meningoccal Infection ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	0	0	—
				—	—	—
Total				70	36	34
				—	—	—

Comments :

It is satisfying to note that no cases of Diphtheria have occurred in the District during the year, and that the one case of Poliomyelitis which was notified was not confirmed.

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease under Age Groups.

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Mening- ococcal Infection	Acute Polio- myelitis
Under 1 year	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 2 years	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
3 to 4 „	5	4	3	—	—	—	1
5 to 9 „	28	6	1	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 „	6	—	—	1	—	—	—
15 to 24 „	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
25 to 44 „	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
45 to 64 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	43	14	5	5	2	1	1

Incidence of Infectious Disease in recent years

Disease		Year					
		1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Scarlet Fever	{ Cases	42	24	18	5	19	43
	{ Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	{ Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—
	{ Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	{ Cases	15	415	195	53	347	5
	{ Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	{ Cases	27	6	89	49	65	14
	{ Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio- Myelitis	{ Cases	5	2	1	—	1	1
	{ Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA (1954).

Number of children who received Primary Immunisation during the year.

District		Under 1 year	1 and under 5 years	5- 14 years
Boston Borough	...	169	205	66
Spalding Urban	...	69	117	2
Boston Rural	...	125	219	2
East Elloe Rural	...	114	151	4
Spalding Rural	...	90	120	18
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		567	812	92
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Number of Booster Injections

Boston Borough	...	...	...	287
Spalding Urban	...	...	...	325
Boston Rural	...	...	...	297
East Elloe Rural	...	...	...	298
Spalding Rural	...	...	...	242
				<hr/>
			Total	1449
				<hr/>

Position on 31/12/1954 showing number and % of Child Population Immunised

		Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5- 14 years	
District		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boston Borough	...	82	19.7	1272	82.0	3308	85.5
Spalding Urban	...	38	16.7	809	93.6	1723	79.2
Boston Rural	...	68	18.0	954	67.2	2474	72.0
East Elloe Rural	...	85	22.5	1045	68.2	2825	75.9
Spalding Rural	...	54	16.1	877	73.0	2316	74.5
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		327	18.9	4957	75.4	12646	77.6
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total number of children under 15 years immunised : 17930.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

		M.	F.	Total
Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/54.	Pulmonary	30	18	48
	Non-pulmonary	1	4	5
Cases removed from the Register as cured during 1954	Pulmonary	1	—	1
	Non-pulmonary	1	5	6
Cases removed from the Register due to diagnosis not being confirmed during 1954	Pulmonary	1	—	1
	Non-pulmonary	—	—	—
Cases removed from Register due to removal from the District during 1954	Pulmonary	2	2	4
	Non-pulmonary	—	2	2

Analysis of new cases and deaths during 1954

Age group	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pul.		Pulmonary		Non-pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	—

DETAILS OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1948-1954

Year	Cases at 31st December				Deaths during year			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
1948	...	60	...	31	...	5	...	2
1949	...	61	...	32	...	3	...	0
1950	...	62	...	29	...	3	...	0
1951	...	51	...	16	...	6	...	0
1952	...	54	...	21	...	0	...	1
1953	...	54	...	14	...	5	...	0
1954	...	48	...	5	...	1	...	0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1954.

Causes						M.	F.	Total
1.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
9.	Other Infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasms, Stomach	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
11.	Malignant Neoplasms, Lungs, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
12.	Malignant Neoplasms, breast	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
14.	Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	11	3	14
15.	Leucaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	14	8	22
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	...	...	10	9	19
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	15	14	29
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	4	0	4
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	11	11	22
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	4	0	4
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
						89	63	152

The following sections of the annual report refer particularly to the work of the Sanitary Inspectors. It has been compiled by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Visits.

The following table shows the number of visits made during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Subject of Visits					Initial Visits	Routine or revisits
Housing Defects	...	...	...	...	125	132
Water supplies and water samples	...	...	...	...	42	17
Drainage nuisances	...	...	...	...	45	46
Refuse nuisances	...	...	...	...	37	4
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	3	1
Moveable Dwellings, camps	...	...	...	...	5	6
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	3	6
Ice cream premises, ice cream samples	...	...	...	...	5	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	3	17
Food preparing premises, food shops	...	...	...	...	8	37
Factories and workplaces	...	...	...	...	2	15
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	1	30
Scabies and Vermin	...	...	...	...	2	—
Infectious diseases and food poisoning	...	...	...	...	53	8
Disinfection after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	7	1
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	5	7
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	6	2
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	111	400
Sewerage Schemes (Housing Sites)	...	...	...	...	7	13
Crowland Sewerage Scheme	...	...	...	...	19	421
Refuse schemes	...	...	...	...	5	11
Nightsoil and Cesspool emptying service	...	...	...	...	5	9
Slaughterhouses ; meat inspection	...	...	...	...	89	725
Building licences	...	...	...	...	—	15
Housing Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	80	83
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	94	72

BUILDING CONTROL

The issuing of licences for private building was discontinued in the month of November and prior to this the following licences were issued.

New Houses 5

HOUSING

Nuisances.

Ninety-six complaints of inadequate water supplies, housing defects, drainage and refuse nuisances were investigated during the year and informal notices were served in each case.

Slum Clearance. Housing Act, 1936.

During the year a total of 49 individual unfit houses were reported to the Council under the provisions of Section 11 and 43 notices of "time and place" served.

22 Demolition orders were made, 14 undertakings were accepted from owners (13 undertakings not to re-let and one undertaking to repair). One closing order was made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953.

Improvement Grants. Housing Act, 1949.

Informal Inspections	...	...	...	...	80
Houses inspected in full detail	...	...	...	...	45
Formal applications for improvement grant	...	...	...	...	25
Improvement grants approved	...	...	...	...	24

This work continues to form a major part of the work of the Department. The standard of "improved" houses has been maintained at a level equivalent to that set by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in the early stages of the work. Good liaison is maintained between the Department and the Regional Office of the Ministry, whose Officers are always helpful.

Overcrowding.

Two new cases of overcrowding were reported and four overcrowded families were re-housed by the Council during the year.

There is no serious over-crowding problem in the district.

New Houses.

A total of 204 houses were completed on the Council's estates during the year and a further 72 were commenced of which 44 had reached roof level at the end of the year.

25 dwellings were erected by private developers and a further 18 were commenced.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

There has been no change in the source of supply which is from 4 artesian bores.

The following table shows the number of dwelling houses and the approximate population supplied from the Council's mains in each parish :—

Parish	Dwellings in Valuation List				Dwellings Supplied				Population Supplied	
Cowbit	196	...	...	...	188	...	...	...	611	
Crowland	940	...	...	...	840	...	...	...	2073	
Deeping St. Nicholas ...	537	...	...	...	430	...	...	...	1326	
Donington	703	...	...	...	640	...	...	...	3399	
Gosberton	730	...	...	...	616	...	...	...	1397	
Moulton	859	...	...	...	638	...	...	...	988	
Pinchbeck	1185	...	...	...	1046	...	...	...	2002	
Quadring	339	...	...	...	279	...	...	...	906	
Surfleet	343	...	...	...	304	...	...	...	2080	
Weston	455	...	...	...	408	...	...	...	2730	
	6287				5389				17614	

The percentage of dwellings supplied is 85.7%.

WATER SAMPLES

Private Supplies.

33 samples of water from private wells and cisterns were submitted for bacteriological analysis. 23 of the samples were reported as unsatisfactory and appropriate action was taken in each case to ensure that a satisfactory supply was made available to each property.

Public Supplies.

200 samples of water were taken by the staff of the Water Department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological analysis with the following results :—

Remarks of Analyst	BORE			
	Deeping St. James	Deeping St. N'las	Don- ington	Pinch- beck
Highly Satisfactory	40	47	48	54
Satisfactory	—	1	1	2
Suspicious	—	1	—	—
Unsatisfactory	—	—	2	4

With regard to the unsatisfactory and doubtful samples where an immediate retest did not give a satisfactory result the cause has been traceable to some contamination of the taps or individual service pipes.

The Regional Scheme work was continued at the West Pinchbeck pumping station and the water tower at Pinchbeck. The Quadring water tower was completed in September. The Cascade and Reservoir at the West Pinchbeck pumping station were brought into operation about August, together with the water supply from the new bore. As a result of the new head works the supply of water from Pinchbeck West was very much improved as regards palatability and the iron content (formerly present when the supply reached the consumer) was reduced.

Schemes for fifteen local extensions were prepared and carried out.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

Details of work done during the year are as follows :—

Cesspools	Vault Closets	Cistern tanks, etc.
1903	473	38

On 116 occasions the machines were used to remove sludge from the settlement and humus tanks at the sewage disposal works on the housing estates. In addition, the collection and disposal of pail closet contents has been maintained throughout the year. The Council's policy, of replacing existing pail closets with W.C.'s is in the best interests of public health and it is hoped that this will be done in all cases where satisfactory sewage disposal can be made available.

Salvage collections have been maintained during the year and the sale of materials realised £1173/17/10 which is an increase over the previous year's total. This amount is equivalent to a rate of 6d. in the £1.

The refuse collection scheme has operated during the year without any major alteration. The area of collection has been increased slightly by small alterations of the routes to bring in outlying properties.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk Distributors.

There are only three retail distributors of loose milk operating in the area ; two being producer-retailers. In all other cases milk sold by retail is designated milk in bottles.

Designated Milk.

The following annual licences to use special designations in relation to milk sold in the district were issued :

	Supplementary Licences
Pasteurised Milk 7	4
Sterilised Milk 11	5
Tuberculin Tested Milk —	2

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Class of animal	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	811	Exact figures unknown			2041
Number inspected		23	2	832	
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	1	4	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	187	—	1	20	115
Percentage of carcasses affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	23.3%	—	100%	2.8%	6.0%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	85	—	—	—	20
Percentage of carcasses affected with Tuberculosis	10.6%	13.0%	—	—	1.0%

Following the de-control of meat the Council issued licences to 12 private slaughterhouses scattered throughout the district. Slaughtering is carried out at irregular hours and regular overtime has to be worked on meat inspection duties.

It has been found impracticable to carry out a 100% inspection of animals but every effort has been made to carry out post-mortem inspections of cattle and pigs.

The present arrangements for slaughtering in the area are, in the main, the same as those in existence 20 years ago. Improvements have been effected at some premises but the over-all picture shows little change.

Details of meat and offals condemned are contained in the following list :

Article Condemned				Disease or condition found
3 Cow carcasses and offals	...	...	...	Generalised Tuberculosis
1 Beef carcase and offals	...	...	...	Generalised Tuberculosis
1 Beef carcase and offals	...	...	...	Unwholesome, oedematous and evidence of Fever
1 Porkette Pig and offals	...	...	...	Swine erysipelas and generalised dropsy
2 Porkette Pigs and offals	...	...	...	Generalised dropsy (Gut oedema)
1 Sow carcase and offals	...	...	...	Septicaemia
1 Pig carcase and offals	...	...	...	Unwholesome and moribund carcase
1 Pig carcase and offals	...	...	...	Multiple malignant growths of the Lymphatic system
1 Sow carcase and offals	...	...	...	Badly bled and urinous carcase
2 Sheep carcasses and offals	...	...	...	Purulent septic condition of the lungs, heart, and both forequarters of the carcasses dropsical
1 Sheep carcase and offals	...	...	...	Generalised dropsy with emaciation associated with severe pneumonia
3 part carcasses of Beef	...	...	...	Localised Tuberculosis
1 part carcase of Beef	...	...	...	Severe and extensive bruising
Part of forequarter of beef	...	...	...	Dropsical
Part of Calf carcase	...	...	...	Localised dropsy
1 Pigs forequarter and pluck	...	...	...	Septic Pleurisy
94 lbs. of Pork Trimmings	...	...	...	Injuries and localised dropsy
64 lbs. of Pork Trimmings	...	...	...	Bruised and localised oedema
36 lbs. of Pork Trimmings	...	...	...	Scar tissues and superficial erysipelas Lesions
21 lbs. Beef Trimmings	...	...	...	Bruising and localised dropsy

The following offals were condemned for various reasons, too numerous to be set out in detail :

74 Beasts Livers	47 Pigs Lungs
68 Part Beasts Livers	27 Pigs Livers
48 Pigs Lungs	19 Pigs Hearts
42 Beasts Heads and Tongues	9 Pigs Heads
4 Beasts Hearts	8 Pigs plucks
4 Beasts thin skirts	5 Pigs kidneys
3 Beasts Spleens	5 Pigs lungs and hearts
3 Beasts kidneys	5 Pigs heads and tongues
3 Beasts thick skirts	1 Pigs hock
2 Beasts mesenteric fats	1 Pigs leg and shoulder
1 Beast kidney, thin skirt and kidney fat	6 lbs. Pigs feet and hocks
1 Beast udder	16 Sheeps Livers
	4 Sheeps Lungs

CYCTICERCUS BOVIS

Four beasts were found to be affected with cysts of the tapeworm *Taenia Saginata*. These were consigned to “deep freeze” for a period of not less than three weeks.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's Rodent Operator maintained this service at a very satisfactory standard throughout the year, and the work is summarised in the following table, as submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

		Type of Property				
		Local Authority	Dwelling-Houses	Agricultural	Other Properties	Total
Total No. of properties in the District		25	6325	1430	549	6899
No. of properties inspected.	Following Complaints	15	399	24	34	472
	Otherwise	9	2907	248	209	3373
No. of properties found to be infested with rats	Major	7	96	3	35	141
	Minor	9	529	4	22	564
No. of properties found to be infested with mice		—	23	—	5	28
No. of infested properties treated		16	969	7	62	1054
No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act	Requiring treatment	—	—	—	—	—
	Requiring structural works	—	—	—	—	—
No. of cases in which work was carried out in default		—	—	—	—	—
Legal proceedings		—	—	—	—	—
No. of “ Block ” control schemes carried out		52				

